



The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 50/ Issue 5

September/October 2019

WORSHIP SERVICE RETURNS TO SANCTUARY

After keeping cool in the Fellowship Hall during the summer heat, we will be returning to 9:30 am worship in the sanctuary on September 22. If you can, please plan to stay after worship on September 15 to help move items back to the sanctuary.

CALL FOR NEW CHOIR MEMBERS!

Join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 in the choir room. We'll be having rehearsals on September 4. We sing to praise the Lord and inspire those who hear the Word. No musical talent necessary—just love to sing!



RBC KIDS WORKSHOP

On Sunday, September 1 from 11-12, the Education Cluster is hosting a class on teaching children. This is primarily being hosted for those folks that help bring our Children's Time during Sunday worship and who lead Kids' Club during worship. Karen Hite will lead our time together, bringing discussion and activities that help us connect Jesus's use of the parable to how we can best develop our teaching with our children. Any and all are welcome! Questions? Contact Karen Hite or Emily Parker.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENT

Where: Christ Lutheran Church
2211 Mainland Road
Harleysville, PA 19438

When: Saturday, October 12
11:00 am-3:00 pm

If it plugs in, Always Be Recycling can recycle it! Most electronics can be recycled for free, but there is a fee for CRT tube televisions and monitors, plasma TVs under 52" and flat screen LED/LCD TVs. Call the church office if you'd like more information on items they will be accepting, or email [ABC at alwaysberecycling@yahoo.com](mailto:alwaysberecycling@yahoo.com)

CROP WALK

Sunday, October 20 (Registration at 1:00 pm,
Walk begins 1:30 pm)
at RBC

See Sunday bulletins and Midweek Reminders for more information.

RBC BOOK CLUB



The RBC Book Club is back from vacation! Our selection for September is **“The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland”** by Jim DeFede. This is the true story of what happened on September 11 when 38 jetliners bound for the USA were forced to land in a small city in Newfoundland. In October, we will discuss **“Turtles All the Way Down”** by John Green, author of “The Fault in Our Stars”.

The RBC Book Club meets at 7:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the church parlor – so our next discussion is September 12th. Bring your neighbor, your coworker, your friend. All are welcome as we share thoughts, insights and perspectives, and nosh on some refreshments.

WORLD MISSION OFFERING 2019

Let Living Water Flow

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we share in this year’s World Mission Offering, we remember Jesus’ words to the woman at the well, “Whoever drinks of the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14, NIV)

One of the questions I often hear in my travels is, “Why am I here?” Usually, the person asking is seeking a sense of identity and purpose, or they are troubled by the uncertainty and unrest in the world around us. It is natural for us to thirst for a purpose in life, for ways to make a meaningful, lasting difference in the world.

That thirst is much like the woman at the well. We want to know our true purpose, and once the Lord meets that need and heals our brokenness, we cannot help but spread the good news so that others can know Jesus as well. The World Mission Offering enables you to be an important part of work being done by your global servants in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. Jesus is working through them and our partners to bring people to faith and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19) Like water, the most essential ingredient for life, the life-changing love of Jesus is flowing and moving throughout the world, satisfying the thirst of those who seek him.

Your gifts through the World Mission Offering bring you into partnership in God’s mission with International Ministries (IM) global servants and partners worldwide. Each of us has an essential role in which no one is insignificant.

I invite you to come alongside IM’s global servants and partners by giving generously to the World Mission Offering. In God’s hands, your gift impacts families and communities around the world. I pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and fulfill you as you give, knowing you are a part of God’s work of transforming the world.

Please join me in praying for our global servants and in giving generously to the World Mission Offering as the Holy Spirit leads you to give.

Gratefully,
Sharon Koh *Executive Director/CEO, American Baptist International Ministries*

A WORD FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR:
Pastoral search, Self-search
September 2019

By the time you receive this issue of the *Vine*, our Search Committee will be examining *real* profiles of *real* pastoral candidates. These are exciting days, so step up your prayer support so they will be able to clearly discern the Lord's will for the *right* pastor for RBC.

You as a congregation, too, will soon be in "discernment mode." To help with that, in our first *Selectives* class this fall (September 29), I'll be sharing a fun way to look at leadership styles that will help us think about the role that pastoral leadership plays in the life of our church. All are welcomed to join us as we discuss this important issue together.

As you get ready to meet your new pastor, it's important to remember that there are many *learned* expectations we typically have of a pastor, built on great pastors who have led us in the past (but not always correctly)! Here's what one anonymous "wag" wrote several years ago (thus its forgivable gender-exclusive language):

The pastor teaches, though he must solicit his own classes. He heals, though without pills or knife. He is sometimes a lawyer, often a social worker, something of an editor, a bit of philosopher and entertainer, a salesman, a decorative piece for public functions, and he is supposed to be a scholar. He visits the sick, marries people, buries the dead, labors to console those who sorrow and to admonish those who sin, and tries to stay sweet when chided for not doing his duty. He plans programs, appoints committees when he can get them; spends considerable time in keeping people out of each other's hair; between times he prepares a sermon and preaches it on Sunday to those who don't happen to have any other engagement. Then on Monday he smiles when some jovial chap roars, "What a job—one day a week!"

Yes, there are certain responsibilities that a pastor must manage, but what, really, are they? Quite often, "traditional" duties of a pastor really belong to *you*, the members of the church. So, as I shared in my message on August 18, rather than ask "*What kind of pastor are we seeking?*" perhaps we should be asking "*What kind of congregation will we be?*" That is, will we be faithful in the responsibilities that are actually *ours*, or will we relegate them to our pastor? And perhaps right now, as you seek the right pastor, perhaps the right question is, "*What will pastoral candidates see in us?*" Ultimately, when we examine and change *ourselves*, we are always in a better position to work in partnership with new leadership.

In that same message, I shared an article written by Wilbur Rees that I was asked to include in this month's *Vine*. Reflect on these words regularly until your new pastor comes:

When we look at our church, do not ask; "How big are we?" But rather ask, "Is there room for me to grow?" An immense church can often be too small.
Don't ask, "What does it believe?" But rather ask, "How does it act?" How it acts is truly what it believes.
Don't ask, "What is its past?" But rather ask, "What is its future?" An alive church faces forward.
Don't ask, "What is it against?" But rather ask, "What is it for?" A church cannot live on a diet of negatives.
Don't ask, "How large is its budget?" But rather ask, "How large is its sacrifice?" A rich church can be poor in faith.
Don't ask, "Is the building filled with people?" But rather ask, "Are the people filled with the Spirit?" The church is people, not a building.
Don't ask, "Who is its pastor?" But rather ask, "What is its mission?" No drum major can lead a band which has neither music nor instruments.

So how are we doing? Are we meeting our *potential*? Are we ready to step out, take bold initiatives in ministry, and be the kind of congregation our Lord *needs* us to be in a changing world? May he, the Lord of this church, guide and bless both your *pastoral search* and your *self-search*, and may his Holy Spirit continue to shape you during the remainder of this waiting season!

RBC Youth

I can remember as a teenager, attending youth group at my church, how excited I felt for summertime. Not just because school was out and I was free, but because I knew what was in store for me as the Youth Ministry's summer program began. The church I grew up in had what we called summer interns. These were college students who came to stay for the summer and run the Youth Program under the leadership of the Youth Director. As students we always LOVED our summer interns. They were young and cool and insightful, and they invested in us. They walked along side us and lead us during what was really the most enjoyable time of our year. We would go out for ice cream, or play putt-putt, go on our summer trips together and have meaningful conversations. I cannot express how awesome it was having these people in my life during these summer months.

As the Youth Director here at RBC, I always thought it would be cool to do something like this for our students. To have some college students during the summer, committed to spending time with our teenagers, guide them, teach them, play with them, and walk alongside them. But it has never been in the cards to run that sort of program, as it requires resources and time and a large enough group to justify something to that scale. At least that's what I thought... This past summer, in our own RBC way, we really made this happen, or I should say God made this happen. I didn't plan for it, but when I realized it was happening, you better believe I RAN with it! With that said, I want to give a BIG shout out to Sky Moore, Bobby Fisher, and Megan Clancey who, without really knowing it, were RBC's COOL, young, helpful, committed, and humble Summer interns. These three made this summer happen for our Youth Group. They made time in their busy schedules to spend time with our students, come to and help run our events and trips, and to just love our kids! So if you see them around, make sure you give them a big THANK YOU for helping with our Youth.

What is cool about this is that these three grew up in our Youth Ministry program and in our Church and wanted to be leaders and be a part of RBC and to give back to the youth program. It is really a powerful thing to witness this kind of growth and leadership. Our teenagers love these three... and I love hearing how our students have come to them with their joys and sorrows over the summer. God is working through RBC and our Youth Ministry, and sometimes as the leader I get to step back and let it happen.

-Ryan Seckman



RBC Youth Reminders:

RBC Youth is back on a normal school year schedule, so we meet regularly on Sunday Nights from 6 -8:30 pm in the Youth Room. All 6th-12th graders welcome

We have added a new Youth Worship team to our Sunday morning rotation.

If you know any families or students looking to get connected with a group send them my way!
For more information contact Ryan at rseckman@hotmail.com



Welcome to Terry Myers – RBC’s new Administrative Assistant

RBC welcomes Terry Myers who became the church’s new Administrative Assistant on August 1. Terry comes to us following 17 years of service in Bulgaria under appointment by American Baptist International Ministries with her husband Tom.

Terry’s work in Bulgaria was multi-faceted. She managed a literacy program with Roma (Gypsy) children as an outreach ministry of the Sofia Baptist Church. She coordinated the partnership between International Ministries and the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. She provided support to short-term mission teams that came from the United States to work alongside Bulgarian Baptists in their ministries.

As we seek to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit may surprise us and draw us out of our comfort zone. This was true for Terry as she became aware of young women that were being trafficked on the streets and roads in the capital city of Sofia. As a result, Terry worked with other women to organize “Daughters of Bulgaria,” a ministry that reached out to those human trafficking victims.

Throughout their ministry in Bulgaria, Terry supported Tom’s development work that was primarily in job and small business creation. Tom was also involved in business-as-mission to support the ministry outreach of Sofia Baptist Church and provide a place for job training. During those years, Terry and Tom were also busy parenting their two sons who were eight and six years old when the family moved to Bulgaria.

We are grateful that God has brought Terry to join us in ministry at RBC with her warm personality and multiple skills. Welcome, Terry!

If you no longer wish to receive the Midweek Reminders and/or The Vine, or if you prefer it to be sent to a different email, please let Terry at the church office know!
rbcabc@rbcabc.org or call 610-948-4170

THE VINE IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE RBC WEBSITE (rbcabc.org)

The Fall 2019 Secret Place has arrived and can be picked up from the table in the Fellowship Hall or in the foyer (after September 15).

FROM THE GREEN TEAM:

Why Use Renewable Table Service at RBC?

There have been many reports in the news recently about global warming, and a crisis that is looming. We hear of extreme weather, melting polar caps, rising, warming oceans, and most recently the burning fires in the Amazon, known as the lungs of our planet. These impact our immediate life, our health, communities around the world, of course our beautiful hurting earth, and especially our future. Many experts predict that we have just a few years to turn the crisis around before it is too late. Folks ask me, "What can I do?" What follows is a suggestion for not only us at RBC, but any home or workplace or school. We have both an opportunity and a responsibility to make a small change which has a big impact to help the environment. We can stop using plastic and paper goods (plates, silverware, cups, napkins), and replace them with reusable items. Yes, it takes more time to wash them up and dry them and put them away, but fortunately we already own (almost) everything needed to accomplish this task. Who will do this? You might ask. But first, an explanation of how it impacts our planet and why it would be helpful to take this step:

First, a discussion of Raw Materials used.

- 1) Plastic. This takes several forms: Styrofoam, (which uses benzene, a known carcinogen), plastic silverware, or tablecloths, all made from a by-product of oil refining. The petroleum is first extracted, then separated, to be available for the production. Next, the manufacturing takes not only the petroleum, but also much water. Also involved in the process are toxic chemicals and dyes, all causing pollution.
- 2) Paper. One of the biggest culprits in the destruction of forests is the paper industry. Americans use 50 million tons of paper each year, costing 850 million trees. Not only does the manufacture of all this paper destroy whole forests, and all the plants, wildlife, nutrients, soil and insects depending on them, but often the forests are destroyed by "slash and burn", using the land for agriculture or development. This causes erosion, death, landslides, and watershed destruction along with the other issues. It also adds carbon dioxide to our atmosphere, one of the worst gasses in global warming.
- 3) Fossil fuels. These are used in the ingredients, the manufacture, the packaging, the storage, and the transportation of both paper and plastic goods. Harmful dyes and chlorine bleaches which create dioxin, a deadly toxin, are used in making colored and white paper products. In the production of chlorine, dioxin can leak into the air, ground and water, and then into our bodies, causing health problems including liver damage, reproduction problems, rashes and nervous system damage. All this to get nice white paper.

Second, notes about Packaging and Transportation:

The packaging of both paper and plastic goods takes even more paper (cardboard), and more plastic (wrap), and more transportation, of course using more fossil fuels. It also takes fuel to run the plants. Even paper goods are packed in plastic, very little of which is recycled. Once they are packaged, it still takes fuel to store them, then transport, (to the warehouse), then again store, and transfer again (to the store). One fact: paper and packaging waste is about 30% of all garbage, roughly 5 million tons a year.

Finally, Disposal:

Eventually, the paper and plastic goods make it to our stores, then our homes, and churches for use. We usually throw away the packaging, then after we use the products (soiled paper cannot be recycled), we throw them "away". But where is "away"? They are picked up by the garbage trucks (using more fuel) then taken to a landfill. Sometimes these landfills are far away, even overseas, taking more fuel to transport them. Even though paper is biodegradable, the landfills are designed to isolate the waste from the air and water to prevent ground, air and water contamination. Styrofoam cups, even if they were exposed to air, can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. Trash that is burned releases toxic chemicals into the air causing more pollution and health problems. When the trash does eventually break down, it leaks methane gas into the atmosphere which is very harmful, and one of the major causes of global warming.

Final thoughts: The good news is that we have everything we need to stop making a negative impact on our earth, and join the Healers. We have ceramic plates, bowls, stainless steel silverware, and some newly purchased reusable glasses. We are working on getting the napkins and mugs. It won't be long and we will have those too. Yes, these all took natural resources to manufacture and then to wash, but not nearly as much as the water, petroleum, and paper needed to manufacture, package, transport, and dispose of their plastic and paper counterparts. We are fortunate here to have an abundant supply of resources with which we can honor each other, the environment, the earth itself, and most of all, God. Let us work together to accomplish this goal, even if it takes a little more of our energy. Many great conversations take place when doing dishes, and I consider this holy ground too. Perhaps we could have a list of people who would be willing to help wash the dishes and put them away when there is a function. Are you willing? Contact Kay Rolfs Massaglia if you are?

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER

Steven and Beth Smith	12
Scott and Nancy Ritchie	23
Ryan and Danielle Crist	25

OCTOBER

John and Margaret Clevenstine	4
Mickey and Becky McDaniel	22
Linnie and Sandy Smoyer	24

Happy Birthday

SEPTEMBER

Sharon Brownback	11
Mark Hite	11
Dave Messer	11
Dallas Schurr	12
Jeanne Miller	13
Millie Collins	16
Karen Hite	17
Mary Glassman Jones	20

OCTOBER

Lara Cifelli	4
Emma Trulson	14
Gene Wheeler	21
Becky McDaniel	25
Ryan Crist	30



The birthday/anniversary lists of active members/regular attenders have been updated. If there are any additions/changes that need to be made, please contact the church office.

**Royersford Baptist Church
452 S. Lewis Road
Royersford, PA 19464**

Royersford Baptist Church (RBC)
Office - 610-948-4170

Email - rbcabc@rbcabc.org
Website - www.rbcabc.org

Staff -

Rev. Dr. David M. Brown, Interim Pastor
Ryan Seckman, Youth Director
Terry Myers, Administrative Assistant
Lara Cifelli, Worship Coordinator
Sharon Brownback, Choir Director
Alex Cifelli, Accompanist
Bo Delano, Interim Custodian
Kristin Christopher, Nursery School
Director

*RBC is affiliated with American
Baptist Churches in the USA*

**If you would like to receive your
newsletter via e-mail, please contact
our Administrative Assistant at 610-
948-4170 or send an e-mail to
rbcabc@rbcabc.org**

Office Schedule

Monday through Friday 9 am - 3 pm

Pastor Dave's office hours

Monday through Thursday
9 am – 12 pm

If these times don't work for you,
please call the office. We will help
you schedule an appointment for
a time convenient for you.

Ryan's Hours

Monday Off
Tuesday 11 am – 3 pm
Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm
Thursday 12 pm – 4 pm
Friday 11 am – 2 pm

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am – Worship

10:10 am – RBC Kids

RBC Lay Leadership

Moderator - Bob Brownback
Vice Moderator - Ken George
Education - Millie Collins
Adult Education Program, RBC Kids, Church
Nursery, RBC Nursery School, VBS
Worship - Janelle Trulson
Choir, Communion, Drama, Hosts,
Planning, Technology, Worship Leaders
Spiritual Growth & Caring – Vacant
Gifts Discovery, Small Groups, Social Event
Planning, Women's Ministries
Mission & Outreach – Reid Trulson
ABC Missions, CROP, Evangelism, Hands-on-
Worship, Mission Trips, RBC Players
Administrative Support - Dave Messer
Buildings and Grounds, Kitchen Team,
Finance/Business, Office Volunteers, Staff
Relations, Website/Public Relations
Youth Ministry – Allison Fisher
Small Groups, Student Leadership, Summer
Mission, After School Program, Youth Group

If you have been touched by
the ministry of RBC, you can
be part of continuing our
ministry together through your
financial gifts. Our website has
online giving options that make
it possible for you to be a part
of supporting the work of
Royersford Baptist Church.
Your gifts and your prayers
make a vital difference in the
Kingdom of God.



For the latest in news
and information about
Royersford Baptist Church
go to

www.rbcabc.org